

[By Neal Goswami](#)

Vermont Congressman Peter Welch is decrying a GOP spending plan revealed Tuesday that aims to roll back previous spending agreements struck between Republicans and Democrats.

House Budget Committee Chairman Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wisc., unveiled the GOP's budget plan, and Democrats immediately pounced, pointing out that it would spare automatic cuts from the Pentagon budget and make deeper cuts to health care programs, food stamps and other programs that Democrats have fought to preserve.

A bipartisan "super committee" was unable to reach agreement last year on a deficit reduction plan. As a result, automatic cuts to the federal budget were triggered that both Republicans and Democrats had agreed to, albeit with reservations.

Welch said the cuts -- including about \$55 billion from the Pentagon -- were clear when the super committee failed to achieve the desired cuts. The cuts were supposed to be evenly divided, he said.

"They violated that agreement. What they've done is cut the rest of the budget," Welch said Tuesday in a telephone interview. "A deal made is a deal that should be kept. You can't function if agreements are always subject to re-negotiation."

Welch said Ryan's plan also cuts overall spending beyond what both parties have previously agreed to, and calls on more tax cuts for "those at the very top."

"This protects the Pentagon, lowers taxes for the most well-off Americans and pays for the protection of the Pentagon with the rest of the budget," he said. "The Pentagon simply has to make a contribution to fiscal discipline, it can't be given a blank check."

Republicans continue to promote economic principles that have not been supported by facts, Welch said. "The Ryan budget has two assumptions -- the first is that austerity leads to prosperity," Welch said. "Second, the assumption is that we'll pay off our debt by lowering taxes for the wealthiest Americans. Both of those assumptions have no evidence behind them."

The "vast majority" of Democrats in the House are strongly opposed to the GOP spending blueprint, Welch said. Any budget plan that has a chance of passing must include compromises on both sides, according to Welch.

"The prescription for failure here is that there's no effort to reach out and compromise on revenues. In fact, the Ryan budget doubles down on their approach to cut revenues," Welch said. "The only way we're going to be able to do something is to do it together."

Welch said both Republicans and Democrats know that Ryan's proposal has no chance of passing the Democratic-led Senate. "It is election year fodder but we've got a real world challenge. In election years, things happen, but we've got a real debt that has to be addressed," he said.